

just heard from the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), are supporters of a great bill Mr. DUFFY introduced called the Protecting Internet Freedom Act, H.R. 5418. It has many sponsors on it. There are efforts in the Senate as well to do the same thing to protect the Internet.

In 2014, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the NTIA, announced its intention to relinquish, to give away, its procedural authority over Internet domain and functions to the global Internet stakeholder community. Many of the Iowans I represent, and I know many others around the country, are incredibly concerned about this—and rightly so—about shifting U.S. oversight and giving authority to regimes that have repeatedly censored the Internet.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I have worked with my colleagues to try to block funding for the administration's appeal to do this, this bogus plan, and I am hopeful U.S. Internet protections will remain in any final spending bill coming up. Mr. Speaker, the proper place for debate over important issues like this, like the integrity of the Internet, is here in Congress, not behind closed doors at the NTIA, a Federal agency, with these unilateral actions.

I urge my colleagues and I urge my fellow Americans to reach out to the Members of Congress and tell them and ask them and plead with them to protect the Internet, to make sure it is free and it is open, and to find a solution so that Iowans and all Americans have continued access to an open and free Internet, uncensored, where information can flourish and speech can flourish.

#### UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE UP CONTROL OF THE INTERNET IN 9 DAYS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great concern that in a mere 9 days the United States Government is going to give up control of the Internet. This is one of those issues that I don't think many Americans know about. This is not on the front page above the fold of your paper. It is not splashed across your nightly news. You are not seeing it everywhere on the Internet. So Americans aren't really aware of it 9 days before this transfer is about to take place.

Now, as the Speaker knows, there are many things in this House both parties don't always agree on—that might be an understatement. The President just transferred \$1.7 billion to Iran; \$400 million, arguably, was Iranian money, but \$1.3 billion was American money, U.S. taxpayer money, transferred to Iran, the lead sponsor of Tehran cash. I disagree with that. Some of my colleagues on the other side might ap-

plaud that and think that is a great idea. I would disagree.

Or the fact that we are releasing prisoners from Guantanamo Bay. Folks who helped craft the 9/11 attack are being released from GTMO back to areas where they can do America more harm. I disagree with that. My friends across the aisle might agree with those releases. Those are some big items that this Chamber does not agree on.

But the transfer of control of the core functions of the Internet is something that many Members of this Chamber and many Americans agree with. It is going to transfer those core functions to an international foreign body that will include Russia and China and Iran and even Europe, transferring that control.

And let's make no mistake; the Internet was made in America. The Internet was paid for by American taxpayers at its point of invention, and the Internet has revolutionized the world, revolutionized the form in which we communicate. Not only is it great technology, but it embodies the American idea of freedom of speech. It is all open. Put out your ideas; some are good, some are bad, some are true, some are false, but it is free, just like that American idea of free speech. We have exported that freedom of speech idea to the rest of the world on the Internet, radically transformed the way people around the world communicate, and it was made in America with the American idea of free speech.

Now, 9 days from now, we are on the cusp of transferring its control to a foreign body that doesn't share that same idea of freedom of speech. We all know Russia doesn't share that idea, China doesn't share that idea, and Iran doesn't share that idea. But you might say, my friends, Europe, they share that idea, don't they? Not necessarily, they don't. They have rules in the European Union that will delineate hate speech and offensive speech that has to be taken off the Internet—not an American idea. That is a European idea of free speech.

But when you talk about offensive speech, offensive to whom? I could say, well, Catholics or Christians might hold certain positions and put certain things on the Internet that another group finds offensive, or the LGBT community might put something on the Internet that another group finds offensive. I am sorry. In a debate of ideas where you have a free flow, people can get offended, and that is okay.

□ 1100

But, to shut down speech that is offensive, even in the European model, frankly, to me, is offensive.

I think what we have to do in this body is to prevent the transfer. The Internet, I would argue, is U.S. Government property; and if the President is you-know-what-bent on transferring its control, it should come to this House and to the Senate. We should vote. We should have hearings and a debate.

In the end, the American people should see how their Senators and their House Members vote on the transfer of the core functions of the Internet. They should have a say. They should be able to petition their elected Representatives to say: I love the idea that you are going to transfer control to a global body that doesn't share our ideas, or, my goodness, stop the transfer.

Petition your elected Representatives, and let's have them take a vote. That is not going to happen. It is going to be transferred by the President—without a vote. I would ask all Americans to stand up, to push back, to fight back, and to make sure we maintain the great idea of the American and now global Internet.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Clarence A. Williams, Greater Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, St. Petersburg, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Our Father and our God, we are grateful for this Nation, its vastness, its beauty. Truly, we live in a land of milk and honey. Help us, we pray, to protect and preserve it so that its grandeur and fullness always remains.

We are grateful for our people. A Nation of many cultures, from many different cultures, from many different races, many different religions, help us to love each other.

We are grateful for our history, a rich, gleaming heritage, a heritage born from a spirit to be free; one moment defending freedom, at other times struggling to find it. Forgive us for the times that we have missed the mark.

We are grateful for our leaders. Lord, bless the Members of this Chamber and the leadership of our great Nation. Help these Members own our country's problems and work to find solutions.

Finally, we are grateful for our future. Lord, bless the United States of America to be Your champion of righteousness that, supported by Thy powerful hand, we will establish Thy justice among nations and among men.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARDY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## WELCOMING REVEREND CLARENCE A. WILLIAMS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome my friend and fellow Floridian, Reverend Clarence A. Williams to the House floor as our guest chaplain.

Pastor Williams is a lifelong public servant and trailblazing leader in the Tampa Bay community. He serves as the senior pastor of the Greater Mt. Zion AME Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, which I have the honor to represent here in the Congress.

Pastor Williams is a man of great wisdom and he is a man of action. In 2013, Pastor Williams formed Cross and Anvil Human Services, Inc., a non-profit organization which works to close the educational, digital, and wealth gap for our neighbors in Tampa Bay. He is a founding member of Men in the Making, a youth mentoring organization; Life member of the NAACP; and board member of the Community Health Centers of Pinellas County.

His unwavering commitment to the St. Petersburg community is displayed daily in his advocacy for education, civil rights, and equal opportunity for all of our neighbors.

He is a native of Bartow, Florida, where he attended Bartow High School, and later Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tennessee. He is married to Mrs. Andrea P. Williams, and they have two lovely daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in thanking Pastor Williams for leading today's opening prayer, and I thank him for his outstanding service to the St. Petersburg community.

## HELPING REFUGEES REBUILD—INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on International Day of Peace, to applaud the efforts of Connect2Peace, the Peace Coalition the Rock River Valley, to draw attention to the plight of children and refugees whose lives have been forever disrupted by war.

Tonight, Rockford University and Connect2Peace will host a conversation on "How to Help Refugees Rebuild their World," featuring Melissa Fleming, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

As chief spokesperson, Ms. Fleming speaks around the world on behalf of the more than 65 million vulnerable and voiceless people, half of which are children who are displaced from their homes by war, conflict, and persecution.

Helping refugees rebuild amid war and poverty is difficult and complicated, but there is hope. Groups like Kids Around the World in Rockford have stepped in to feed children and help them enjoy their disrupted childhood through donated playground sets.

People like Denny Johnson, founder of Kids Around the World, and U.N. Commissioner Melissa Fleming work tirelessly to bring hope into seemingly hopeless situations.

As an executive committee member for the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, today I urge us to pray and act for peace in our world.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The Chair will entertain up to 14 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, every year, from September 15 to October 15, our Nation marks Hispanic Heritage Month to celebrate the enduring contribution of Latinos throughout our country's history.

I am proud to represent a district that has been shaped and bolstered by generations of Hispanic Americans as well as recent Latin American immigrants.

Los Angeles County is home to great Hispanic leaders, like Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis, and State Senator Ricardo Lara. For the first time in history, our California State Legislature is led by two Latino lawmakers, Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon.

California is proof that diversity is a strength and something we must recommit to and celebrate. That is why we must, as a nation, condemn attempts to demonize, marginalize, and scapegoat immigrant families. We are better than that as a country.

We need to stop playing politics with people's lives and finally do our jobs and pass comprehensive immigration reform that fixes our broken immigration system and lives up to our American values.

We can be better. Let us recommit to these values while we mark this year's Hispanic Heritage Month.

## CONGRESSMAN JEFF MILLER HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that in my service I began as a member of the unique class of 2001. These were Members elected in special elections that year, including now-U.S. Senator JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas, along with chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, JEFF MILLER of Florida, and chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, RANDY FORBES of Virginia, both of whom are now concluding their House service.

Since being elected to the House, Chairman JEFF MILLER has demonstrated his remarkable leadership as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and as chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Chairman MILLER has been a dedicated advocate for troops, veterans, and military families. He has also worked tirelessly to hold the Department of Veterans Affairs accountable to ensure our servicemembers receive the best care. A Trump administration would have an excellent Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

I appreciate Chairman MILLER, his wife, Vicki, and his family for honorably serving the people of the First Congressional District of Florida. Roxanne and I will always treasure them as champions for American families.

Godspeed, JEFF and Vicki.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

## AMERICAN ECONOMY IS STRONGER UNDER DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, let's bury a myth, the persistent claim that Republicans are better at managing the economy than Democrats.

Under President Obama, we have come a long way since the dark days of the Bush-era Great Recession. And whether you look at the past 7½ years under President Obama or the past 70 years since Truman, the Democratic